

Application No. 10/086,351
Amendment dated July 15, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of May 17, 2005

Docket No. 12-2-4831

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 17 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected. Further claims 17, 19 and 20 are objected to. By this amendment, independent claims 1, 10 and 17 are amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Objection

Claims 17, 19 and 20 have been objected because of informalities. The Examiner indicates that the word "orde" in claim 17 should be "order".

Claim 17 has been amended as shown above to correct the typo.

Applicants respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-14 and 17 have been repeatedly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,687,331 to Volk et al. ("Volk").

As Applicants explained in the previous amendment filed on January 31, 2005, the present invention as featured in independent claim 1, for example, is directed to an information processing apparatus having "determination means" configured to determine a plurality of objects each associated with an executable function by searching the multimedia contents while the multimedia contents are displayed on a screen. The information processing apparatus of

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claim 1 invention further recites "setting means" configured to set a selection order of the identified objects so that each of the plurality of objects is selected in turn and the associated function is executed upon receiving a command from a user. Each of other independent claims (i.e., claims 10 and 17) recites similar features to claim 1 as described herein.

The "setting means" as described above enables a user of the information processing apparatus of the present invention to have a flexibility in setting the selection order of the plurality of functional objects. Portions of the original specification teaches this aspect of the present invention. For example, a portion of the original specification (i.e., page 14, lines 4-10) describes "[s]ensor objects are extracted from the BIFS description list to generate a list table 203a shown in Fig. 5 (S402). Upon generating this list table, the selection order of sensor objects is determined. In this example, the order is determined based on the X- and Y-coordinates on the display screen, and the list table is generated in that selection order."

Volk, disclosing a viewer interface device used in an interactive television network, teaches selecting one of control items in response to a simple tap command from a user using a remote control device 80 such as shown in Fig. 4. Referring to Figs. 5 and 6 of Volk, the user may select one of the three items (i.e., two control buttons 102, 103 and one spin dial button 104) by simply tapping the touchpad control 114 of the control device 80 in one of two modes (i.e., a tap mode or a roam mode operation). In particular, Applicants note that a portion of Volk describes "[t]he set-top terminal 48 preferably supports cursor movement in sixteen different directions in the roam mode and eight directions in the tap mode." (col. 21, lines 48-51 of Volk)

Nothing in Volk, however, shows or suggests extracting executable objects from the multimedia contents and setting a selection order of the objects. Applicants note that the control

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items (i.e., two control buttons 102, 103 and one spin dial button 104) are presented by the graphical viewer interface 100, i.e., the control items are NOT extracted from the displayed multimedia contents as required by the present invention. See, for example, col. 20, lines 1-16 of Volk.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 10 and 17 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Volk for at least the reasons discussed above.

Nonetheless, claims 1, 10 and 17 are amended to further clarify the present invention as discussed above. For example, amended claim 1 recites "identifying means for searching the multimedia contents and thereby identifying a plurality of objects from the multimedia contents ...," "setting means for setting a selection order ... identified by said identifying means."

Applicants believe that amended claims 1, 10 and 17 are further distinguishable over the cited reference (i.e., Volk).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 10 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application as amended including the new claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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AUTHORIZATION

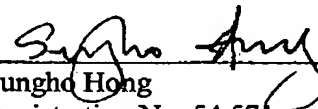
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4831). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 15, 2005

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